

eared Wheatear (*Ænanthe albicollis* Vieill. 1818, not *Saxicola aurita* Temm. 1820, as cited by the former writer) may be separated into two forms, an eastern and a western representative, and Mr. Whitaker has proposed the name *Saxicola catarinæ* for the latter or western form. It is quite true that eastern examples may be distinguished from those of the western portion of this Wheatear's range, and the differences as given by him are correct, as I have ascertained by the examination of a large series in the National Museum at Buda-Pest; but as both forms have already received names, Mr. Whitaker's name is merely a synonym.

Vieillot's *Ænanthe albicollis* inhabits, he states, the southern provinces of France, Italy, and Spain, and is clearly the western form, whereas Hemprich & Ehrenberg describe the eastern form under the name *Saxicola amphileuca* (Symb. Phys., Aves, fol. bb, footnote 4, 1829) from the Lebanon. The eastern form will therefore stand as *Saxicola amphileuca* Hempr. & Ehrenb., and the western as *Saxicola albicollis* (Vieill.).

I may here also remark that the Pied Wheatear may be separated into two forms or races by those ornithologists who elect to recognise subspecies, as the western form is, as a rule, somewhat smaller, has the black band on the back narrower, and the outer tail-feathers, as a rule, quite white. If, however, Mr. Whitaker is correct in his statement (Bull. B. O. Club, xiii. p. 15) that in the eastern form the sexes are alike, whereas in the western form they differ in plumage, the two must be recognised as good species, and in such case the eastern will stand as *Saxicola lugens* Licht. and the western as *Saxicola halophila* Tristram.

VIII.—*Remarks on Pitta longipennis Reichenow and Pitta reichenowi Madarász.* By R. BOWDLER SHARPE, LL.D.

(Plate IV.)

DR. VON MADARÁSZ has very kindly sent over to England for my examination the type of the *Pitta* described by him

in 1901 from the Central Congo district, and named (Orn. MB. ix. p. 133) *Pitta reichenowi*. It is certainly a remarkable-looking bird, differing from *P. angolensis* and *P. longipennis* in the green chest, which is slightly mixed with dull ochre on the upper breast.

In *P. angolensis* there is a double pale eyebrow, a narrower one above the black sides of the face and a superior broad one of dark ochreous brown. In the other two species there is but one eyebrow, very broad, light ochreous, and turning paler towards the posterior end of the superciliary band along each side of the nape.

The blue spangles on the wings are of a deeper cobalt-blue in *P. reichenowi* and *P. longipennis*, and there is a shade of purple or ultramarine on the spots of the median and greater wing-coverts, as well as on the inner secondaries, especially in the last-named species.

The white alar speculum in *P. reichenowi* is of about the same size as in *P. angolensis*, and the amount of whitish shade at the end of the outer secondaries is indistinct and not so great as in *P. longipennis*.

The characters for the three species seem to be as follows:—

	Blue patch on lesser wing-coverts	Blue spots on median and greater wing-coverts	Ochreous superciliary stripe
1. <i>P. angolensis</i>	eau-de-nil.	eau-de-nil or cobalt.	double.
2. <i>P. longipennis</i>	cobalt.	purplish blue or ultramarine.	single.
3. <i>P. reichenowi</i>	cobalt.	cobalt or dull ultramarine.	single.

	Light spots at end of outer secondaries	Fore-neck and chest
1. <i>P. angolensis</i>	obsolete, greyish white.	pale ochreous.
2. <i>P. longipennis</i>	white and distinct.	pale ochreous.
3. <i>P. reichenowi</i>	obsolete, greyish white.	dull greenish.

H. Goodechild, del. et lith.

1. PITTA REICHENOWI.

2. PITTA LONGIPENNIS.

Bate & Danielsson, imp.



This 1903 Pl IV

The dimensions of the three species are as follows:—

	Total length.	Culmen.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.
	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.
<i>P. angolensis</i>	7·4	1·0	4·4	1·5	1·3
<i>P. longipennis</i>	7·8	1·1	5·3	1·7	1·6
<i>P. reichenowi</i>	7·3	0·45	4·7	1·8	1·35

The specimen of *P. longipennis* here considered is that procured by Mr. J. ffolliott Darling, near Salisbury, in Rhodesia (*cf.* Sharpe, Bull. B. O. C. xii. p. 49). The type-specimen in Berlin was obtained in Northern Nyasaland.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE IV.

Fig. 1. *Pitta reichenowi*, from the typical specimen.

2. *Pitta longipennis*, from the specimen procured by Mr. J. ffolliott Darling, near Salisbury, in Rhodesia.

Both the figures are reduced to $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of the natural size.

IX.—On the Silver-Pheasants of Burma.

By EUGENE W. OATES, F.Z.S.

WHEN I wrote the first part of the 'Manual of the Game-Birds of India' in 1898, the material for dealing with the Silver-Pheasants was very scanty. Now, owing to the assistance of numerous kind friends, whose names will be found in the following notes, the number of specimens of these Pheasants in the Natural History Museum has been much augmented and some rare forms have been acquired. I wish, therefore, to revise my account of the Burmese species and to correct some mistakes into which I have fallen.

The old notion that these birds interbreed in a wild state and produce a confusion of forms must now be abandoned. There is nothing to support this view. The larger the series of these Pheasants becomes, the more clearly and distinctly does it appear that they are well-defined species, bearing no particular resemblance to any other Pheasants the range of which they overlap.

There is a point about these Pheasants which is very